

Ingersoll is Dead

Without warning came the last summons to the great agnostic. "There were no bands in his death." "He was not plagued like other men." In the twinkling of an eye his spirit fled into the mystery beyond. He had said, "Death is a wall." And although life on the other side of that wall is no more a miracle, no more a mystery, than life on this side, yet with all the power of his great gifts he taught men to doubt the future life. Perhaps now he knows what is beyond that wall. "The fool hath said in his heart: there is no God." Note well the language: in his heart. It is his desire and not his reason that denies. The pity of it all is that a man of such magnificent endowment as Col. Ingersoll possessed should come to hate God so implacably. Look at the picture: Infinite hate denying Infinite love. It is a pity for his own sake, for the vast amount of good he might have done. It is a greater pity for the thousands of superficial people who have been led astray by his eloquence and sophistries. In a world where guidance and comfort is so much needed, he has sown darkness and despair. And even those he loved best were at the last the greatest sufferers, the most pitiable victims of his unbelief. Who can read unmoved the story of that awful grief, his wife and daughters mourning as those who have no hope, and refusing to be comforted. One glance at that distracted household ought to be sufficient answer to all the blasphemies of the gifted pagan. The dearest hope of the human heart is that there will be a glad meeting of loved ones on the other side of the grave. The sublimest consolation of the soul lies in the assurance that, delivered from all its imperfections, rescued from sin, and caught up into the heavens, it shall soon enter into the blessedness of the endless life. In this great thought there is something which lends to our manhood a superlative significance and dignity, and, in spite of brilliant talents, the glamor of eloquence, garlanded verbiage, how contemptible, how past all scorn is the man who would rob us of so divine a heritage, and give nothing in its place but ashes.

He has fled from the world, but his influence, his blasphemies remain, and they will go on down through the generations to come, sowing infinite blight and ruin. And as through the ages the wreckage floats upon the beach of the other world, what must be the anguish of the author of so much woe, looking upon the multiplying evils of his own hands, and powerless to put a period to the destruction. Despite all the imperfections of the churches, the imperfections of the creeds, and the grievous imperfections of Christians, the religion of the New Testament—of salvation from sin, of resurrection and of eternal life—is the incomparable boon which divine mercy has bestowed upon a lost world. Beside it there is nothing else.

Conference Items

Remember the date, Tuesday, August 29, in the afternoon, about 2 o'clock. All, except those living in the far west or in the far east, can reach Winona in time for the opening of the conference by starting sometime on Monday.

Be sure to find out the best way to reach the place, the way that will cost you the least money and give you the least inconvenience. Do this before the time comes when you must start.

A very important item with most people is the railroad fare. First of all read carefully what Brother Yoder says on page three, column three. Do not fail to see your agent in time and learn whether he has on sale the half fare ticket. If he has not and will not have any, find out the nearest point at which you can purchase such a ticket. If living outside the Central Traffic Association, follow carefully the instructions of Brother Yoder. But above all things look after your ticket *now*. You need not purchase it now, see that you *can* purchase it when the time comes.

It may be well for you to remember that the P. R. R. takes you right to the park. All trains stop at the park during the summer season; by taking this road you will have your baggage within a few rods of the entrance to the park. Those living in and beyond Chicago, and those in and beyond Pittsburg, and others close to the P. R. R. lines will find this the most convenient road. Accommodations are first class.

As to hotel rates, cottages, etc., read again the notes by Brother Yoder. He gives you all the information that you want, and if not he directs you to the place where you can find out more. His notes on the conference are purposely given a place on the editorial page for the reader's easy and convenient reference.

The "Analysis of the Gospel of St. John," by brother J. A. Miller will be ready by the time this paper reaches the reader. Announcement was made that it would not be offered for sale until the time of conference, but those desiring copies can have their orders filled at any time, thus giving them an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the line of thought that will be followed by Brother Miller in his Bible readings. The price is ten cents per copy, \$1.00 per dozen.

Bring with you to the conference a large measure of the Spirit of God, and a heart filled with sweet charities for your fellow brother.

Personal Mention

Brother B. C. Moomaw tells us how to "keep cool" in church.

Sister Detwiler continues her visits among the churches and is meeting deserved success.

Brother Hixson is having some very interesting experiences in his labors as district evangelist.

We are indebted to brother and Professor L. L. Garber for the educational notes on page 14.

Brother Braker is doing faithful service in the Falls City church. He reports two accessions.

Please read carefully the Conference Notes by Brother Yoder. He gives some information which you may be seeking.

We have on the "hook" an article from Brother Mackey on "The Entering Wedge." It will appear in next week's paper.

Sister Bratten, Louisville, Ohio, who attended the C. E. Convention at Detroit gives some interesting notes of the President's address.

The churches in Ohio will please note that all missionary money is to be sent to the secretary, brother J. D. Findley, Glenford, Ohio.

The discussion of Missions, Foreign and Home, and the "Entering Wedge," is making things interesting, but brethren, as far as in you lies, avoid personalities.

On last Friday morning Brother Miller and wife left for Indiana where they will remain until after conference. Address him at Cambria till August 15; after that Winona.

The information Brother Gillin gives in his statistical report shows how much we need to help him in his labors. Not more than one-third the membership has been reported.

If you have had any doubts as to whether Christ ate the Jewish Passover on the night of his betrayal, please read Brother Rensch's article in this paper, and your doubts will be dispelled.

Sabbath morning it was our privilege to listen to a very able and spiritual sermon in the Congregational church by Dr. Fairfield. In the evening he gave an interesting talk on a tour thru Palestine.

The name of Mrs. Hattie Frame is to be substituted on the S. S. C. E. program for that of Mrs. Dr. U. M. Beachly, subject to be selected. The latter's subject was "The Brick Plan for the Washington Church."

The members of the Brethren Publication Board will please take notice of the meeting called by the President, Brother Tombaugh, for August 29, at 6 p. m. Every member of the Board should make it a point to be there.

Who of the sisters will follow Sister Bemenderfer in reporting the work of the local societies? That is an interesting report of hers, and there is no reason why we should not have one or two each week. Others want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

Brother Ditch is busy at work in his field of labor. In his communication is a statement, which, for the sake of emphasis, we repeat here: "Nothing preaches Christ so convincingly as a congregation of Christ-like men and women. Remember our motto, 'More like Christ.'" Reader, let these words find a place in your heart and mind.

Brother J. S. Bowman is doing some excellent work in Virginia. In this issue he reports quite a number of accessions and a most promising field. We are pleased to learn that brother D. C. Moomaw has decided to give his time to the work. With these two men of God in that part of the State we have reasons to look for great results from the Old Dominion.

All EVANGELIST readers will be pleased to hear once again from Brother Holsinger. Accompanying the communication was a note for Mrs. Gnagey, which closes thus: "Please tell brother Abraham, that if my piece is too long for one paper, he may bisect it and run it into two papers. And if it is too short, it will be long enough before I write again." We pity the poor dyspeptic who could not enjoy this pun.

A brother in Dakota offers to pay for the paper for six different persons, to be sent as he directs. He is not a man of means, but in this way he feels that he can do good. The brother has our thanks for his generosity, and six others in the brotherhood we feel sure will be especially grateful for this act of charity. Why should not others do the same? It is an excellent way of doing missionary work.